



*Office of the United States Attorney*

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*District of Arizona*

**José de Jesus Rivera**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 9, 2001

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### **CONVICTED DRUNK DRIVER RETURNS TO PRISON FOR A THIRD TIME IN THE SAME CASE**

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- José de Jesus Rivera, United States Attorney for the District of Arizona, announced today that MICHAEL LONGSTREET, age 23, an enrolled member of the San Carlos Apache Indian Tribe and resident of Peridot, Arizona, was sentenced today to 6 additional months in prison for failing to abide by the terms of his federal supervised release. The sentence was imposed by U.S. District Court Judge Roger G. Strand, in Phoenix, Arizona. Longstreet was previously sentenced to 10 months in prison, to be followed by three years of supervised release, on July 17, 1998, for involuntary manslaughter, and to 5 additional months in prison on November 22, 1999, for an earlier failure to abide by the terms of his supervised release.

Longstreet's original conviction arose after he admitted the following facts during his guilty plea proceedings. On October 26, 1995, Michael Longstreet met a friend, Lorene Kozie, and the two traveled to Bylas, Arizona, where they met other friends and drank beer. Longstreet was up all night and smoked parts of 4 marijuana cigarettes. On October 27, 1995, in the early morning, Longstreet drove Buick sedan owned by Lorene Kozie's parents to Peridot, Arizona with Lorene asleep in the back seat. At approximately 5:15 a.m., Longstreet picked up a second young woman, age 17, from her home in Peridot. Lorene Kozie remained asleep in the back seat of the car. Longstreet drove the three south on Arizona State Route 170. During the drive, Longstreet was intoxicated, drove the car in excess of posted speeds, was weaving in and out of the proper lane and stopped once to buy more beer but was unsuccessful. While seated in the right front passenger seat, the

new passenger observed that Longstreet was intoxicated, speeding and intentionally weaving in and out of the proper lane. The new passenger repeatedly asked Longstreet to let her drive or slow down, but he refused. At mile post 271.5 on State Route 51, Longstreet was driving at least 60 miles per hour in a 35 mile per hour zone and lost control of the car. Once Longstreet lost control of the car, it veered sideways across the northbound lane and shoulder, hit a pile of boulders, rolled over at least three times and then came to rest approximately 149 feet from the highway. Lorene Kozie was killed as a result of the crash. Within 24 hours of the accident, Michael Longstreet's blood was determined to contain .15% w/v ethyl alcohol.

A conviction for involuntary manslaughter in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1112 is punishable by up to six (6) years of imprisonment, a maximum fine of \$250,000.00 or both. A sentence of imprisonment may be followed by up to three years of supervised release. Upon release from his third term of imprisonment, Longstreet will still be required to serve two years of supervised release.

The defendant was in custody pending sentencing and will remain in custody for the duration of his sentence. The investigation of this case was conducted by the United States Probation Office. The prosecution is being handled by Frederick A. Battista, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-97-351-PHX-RGS  
RELEASE NUMBER: 2001-004

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